

Claim 31, line 2, after "258-273" insert --of Claim 3--;  
Claim 32, line 2, after "258-273" insert --of Claim 3--;  
Claim 33, line 2, after "agents" insert --of Claim 35--;  
Claim 34, line 2, after "agent" insert --of Claim 35--;  
Claim 36, line 1, delete "claims 1 to 10" and insert --Claim 3--;  
Claim 37, line 1, delete "claims 1 to 10" and insert --Claim 3;  
Claim 38, line 4, after "258-273" insert --of Claim 3--;  
Claim 41, line 1, delete "claims 1 to 7" and insert --Claim 3--.

8. (Amended) A nucleic acid sequence comprising a portion of the nucleic acid sequences named in [claims 1 to 6] claim 3, in such a sufficient amount that they hybridize with the sequences according to [claims 1 to 7] claim 3 or a sequence having 90% homology thereto.

#### REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969  
Attorney for Applicants  
MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.  
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Direct Dial: 703-812-5311  
Facsimile: 703-243-6410  
Email: zelano@mwzb.com

AJZ:jmm